



## **Franzi: Local reads on western lore make great gifts this year**

**Inside Track**

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**[By: Emil Franzi](#)**

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The following sampling proves that Tucson is blessed with a disproportionate number of fine authors. Most of the titles are available at local bookstores and online.

**“Amazing Girls of Arizona: True Stories of Young Pioneers” by Jan Cleere. Two Dot imprint/Globe Pequot Press, Guilford, Conn.; paperback; \$12.95; 2008.**

Oro Valley resident Jan Cleere is known for her meticulous research, and this volume attests to it. You can get another side of the savagery that existed on the frontier with her story of Olive Ann Oatman’s time as a captive of the Mohaves, the ranching lifestyles of girls like Edith Stratton and Eva Wilbur Cruce, the cultural battle for the Hopi Helen Sekaquaptewa, the 12-year-old Atanacia Santa Cruz, who became Mrs. Sam Hughes, or the Japanese American detainee Ruth Okimoto from among the girls intelligently selected and ably presented.